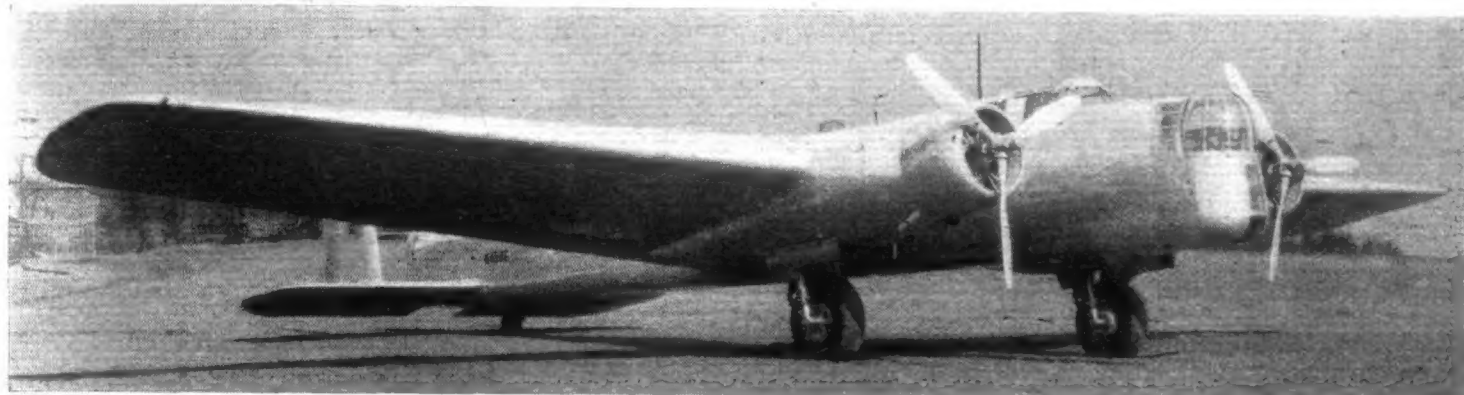


THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NOTES AND NEWS



AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



A HENDON DÉBUTANT: The Armstrong Whitworth Whitley heavy bomber is likely to make its first public appearance at the R.A.F. Display on June 27. Its engines are two 790/880 Tiger IXs.

ENTRANCE TO R.A.F. STAFF COLLEGE

The following officers have been selected for the 15th course at the R.A.F. Staff College, beginning January, 1937:—Sqn. Ldr. R. L. Ragg, A.F.C., Flt. Lts. J. R. Adams, A.F.C., R. L. R. Atcherley, G. R. Beamish, F. G. Cator, J. W. Colquhoun, H. I. Cozens, L. Dalton-Morris, I. J. Fitch, F. J. Fressanges, C. R. Hancock, D.F.C., C. M. Heard, F. S. Hodder, W. T. Holmes, R. B. Jordan, F. M. V. May, D. Macfadyen, G. F. Macpherson, T. N. McEvoy, A. H. Montgomery, M.B.E., J. Norwood, M. D. Ommanney, W. A. Opie, W. F. Pharazyn, T. G. Pike, A. C. H. Sharp, J. E. R. Sowman (Stores Branch), W. G. S. Wood (Stores Branch), F/O. F. C. Read (Stores Branch).

Officers who qualified at the 1936 examination but have not been selected for the 1937 course will be considered for the 1938 course.

The names of officers nominated by the Dominions to attend the 15th course will be published at a later date.

CADRE AND A.A.F. SQUADRONS

Auxiliary Air Force squadrons will carry out annual training during 1936 as follows:—

- No. 501 (City of Bristol) (B) Squadron, August 1 to 15, Donibristle.
 - No. 502 (Ulster) (B) Squadron, July 13 to 25, Manston.
 - No. 503 (County of Lincoln) (B) Squadron, July 12 to 26, Hawkinge.
 - No. 504 (County of Nottingham) (B) Squadron, July 25 to August 8, Hawkinge.
 - No. 600 (City of London) (F) Squadron, August 8 to 22, Hawkinge.
 - No. 601 (County of London) (F) Squadron, August 2 to 16, Lympne.
 - No. 602 (City of Glasgow) (B) Squadron, July 17 to 31, Tangmere.
 - No. 603 (City of Edinburgh) (B) Squadron, July 12 to 26, Leuchars Armament Training Camp.
 - No. 604 (County of Middlesex) (F) Squadron, August 2 to 16, Tangmere.
 - No. 605 (County of Warwick) (B) Squadron, August 2 to 16, Aldergrove Armament Training Camp.
 - No. 607 (County of Durham) (B) Squadron, July 3 to 17, Tangmere.
 - No. 608 (N. Riding) (B) Squadron, August 16 to 30, Tangmere.
- The annual training period for No. 500 (County of Kent) (B) Squadron will be notified later.

SHOOTING AT BISLEY

In the R.A.F. rifle shooting matches at Bisley the Brooke-Popham-Steel Cup for squadron teams of four was won by No. 607 (County of Durham) (Bomber) Squadron. Second place was gained by No. 13 (A.C.) Squadron. F/O. G. E. Watts was the best shot of the meeting.

FLYING ACCIDENT

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that A/C.1 Francis Allday and A/C.1 Allan Sanderson Bailey lost their lives as the result of a collision in the air which occurred at Sheikh Othman, Aden, on June 9. The pilots of the two aircraft were uninjured.

R.A.F. BENEVOLENT FUND

The usual meeting of the Grants Committee was held at Iddesleigh House on Thursday, June 4. Mr. W. S. Field was in the chair, and the other members present were:—Mrs. L. M. K. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E., Air Comdre. B. C. H. Drew, C.M.G., C.B.E., and Group Capt. C. H. K. Edmonds, D.S.O., O.B.E. The committee made grants to the amount of £780 12s. 1d. The next meeting was fixed for June 15.

CAREERS OF AIRMAN CLERKS

The review of the requirements of the service in airmen has now been completed as regards airmen of group IV, and the decisions reached are outlined below.

Recruitment.—There will be no change in the system under which clerks are obtained partly by entering apprentices for training as clerks and partly by entering adult recruits with clerical experience. The majority of the requirements will in future be met from the apprentice entry, and it is intended that most of the accounting posts, and more than half the general duties posts, shall be filled by ex-apprentices.

Organisation.—The sub-trades of clerk, pay accounting, and clerk, store accounting, are being amalgamated and provision is made therein for the mustering or remustering as clerks, accounting, of certain airmen who are qualified in both sub-trades. Airmen whose remustering is not provided for in those orders will be remustered as clerks, accounting, on promotion to sergeant after passing the examination required, which includes tests of ability to supervise both sub-trades. Airmen who already hold the rank of sergeant or above are to be similarly remustered forthwith, provided they passed the Central Trade Test Board examination for confirmation as sergeant.

The sub-trades of clerk, general duties, and clerk, accounting, will in future be regarded as entirely distinct in all ranks, including that of warrant officer, the existing provision for interchangeability in warrant rank being cancelled. Warrant officers (administrative) will, therefore, be drawn only from clerks, general duties, and warrant officers (accountant) from clerks, accounting.

Career of Ex-apprentices.—(i) It will be the policy to provide for ex-apprentice clerks a career which approximates, both as regards promotion and re-engagement, to that announced for other apprentice entrants. Thus, while the actual flow of promotion must depend on the requirements of the service it is intended that, when certain abnormal conditions have passed away, all suitable leading aircraftmen will be promoted to corporal during the initial period of engagement and during the same period a majority of corporals will be promoted to sergeant: of the restricted number of men selected for re-engagement a majority will be promoted to flight sergeant in the earlier part of their re-engaged service and a substantial minority of flight sergeants will be promoted later to warrant officer.

(ii) Ex-apprentice clerks who do not desire or whom it is not possible to re-engage to complete time for pension will be given the opportunity, on completing their twelve years' man's service, to enlist in the reserve for four years and to receive the special gratuity of £100 under the same conditions as apply to ex-aircraft apprentices.